



**Ninety-Eighth Legislature - Second Session - 2004**  
**Committee Statement**  
**LB 835**

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**Hearing Date:** January 20, 2004

**Committee On:** Agriculture

**Introducer(s):** (Kremer)

**Title:** Change provisions of the Nebraska Apiary Act

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

- X    Advanced to General File  
      Advanced to General File with Amendments  
      Indefinitely Postponed
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**Vote Results:**

6	Yes	Senators Kremer, Erdman, Burling, Cunningham, Mossey, Preister
0	No	
0	Present, not voting	
2	Absent	Senators Chambers, Vrtiska

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**Proponents:**

Rick Leonard  
Merlyn Carlson  
Rich Reiman

**Representing:**

On behalf of Senator Bob Kremer, Introducer  
NE Dept. of Agriculture  
NE Dept. of Agriculture

**Opponents:**

None

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

None

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 835 is brought at the request of the Dept. of Agriculture and eliminates a requirement for an entry permit to bring bees into the state and further eliminates required annual inspections and certifications in order to import apiaries. The bill also eliminates a requirement to register bee colonies. The purposes of the changes are to enable the Department's regulatory and enforcement responsibilities to match the decline in resources to carry out an apiary program due to the decline in beekeeping activity in the state.

**Technical Summary:**

- Clarification that Department's duties are permissive
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Section 1 amends §81-2,165 of the Nebraska Apiary Act which assigns enforcement responsibility to the Department of Ag. The revisions clarify that the Department's enforcement duties are permissive rather than mandatory consistent with an intent to scale back the Department's responsibilities in line with resources.

- Elimination of entry requirements

The primary substantive provision of the bill is found in section 5 beginning on page 6. LB 835 amends §81-2,171 by striking current subsection (1) eliminating a prohibition upon bringing bees into the state without obtaining an entry permit and accompanied by identification of the owner and origin of the colonies and certification of inspection issued by the appropriate authority in the state or country of origin. Several harmonizing deletions are made elsewhere in this section and other provisions of the Apiary Act, including removing procedures for entry permit application, penalties for failure to obtain a permit, inspection protocols associated with the permit requirement, and associated duty to report bees imported without a health certificate.

- Elimination of colony registration

Section 9 of the bill outright repeals §81-2,177.01 which requires bee colonies to be registered annually on or before July 1 of each year. Other harmonizing deletions are made elsewhere in the Act.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

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**Senator Bob Kremer, Chairperson**